

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058061  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PPT-01  
CA-01 L-03 /075 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON:JY  
APPROVED BY:EA:ROAKLEY  
EA/VLC:FZBROWN  
IO/UNP:FTATU  
EA/TIMBS:HMEINHEIT  
EA/P:JCANNON  
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P 072003Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058061

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, LA, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CITIZEN REPORTEDLY VISITS ANTI-LPDR  
FORCES IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 301  
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1. AMCIT AND FREELANCE WRITER ROBERT SCHWAB (AKA THOMAS STEARNS) CLAIMS THAT HE SPENT MORE THAN A WEEK WITH LAO INSURGENTS INSIDE LPDR IN JANUARY 1978. SCHWAB TOLD AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN BANGKOK THAT HE HAD VISITED LAO DISSIDENT GROUPS INSIDE LAOS. SCHWAB IS PRIVATE CITIZEN (ALTHOUGH HE ONCE WORKED FOR USAID IN VIETNAM). USG HAD

NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS PURPORTED TRIP IN ADVANCE. OFFICIAL IN BANGKOK WARNED SCHWAB THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES WERE DANGEROUS, AND FROM LAO POINT OF VIEW, ILLEGAL.

2. IN LATE FEBRUARY, SCHWAB APPROACHED USUN WITH TAPE ALLEGEDLY MADE BY LAO DISSIDENT LEADER AND ASKED USUN TO GIVE TAPE TO UN. TAPE IS LONG DISCOURSE IN LAO ABOUT VIETNAMESE ACTIVITIES IN LAOS FROM 1940'S TO DATE. USUN HAS BEEN ASKED TO RETURN TAPE TO SCHWAB IF POSSIBLE AND TO EXPLAIN THAT U.S. IS NOT SUPPORTING ANY INSURGENT GROUP OR ACTIVITY IN LAOS AND WILL NOT BE TRANSMITTING THE TAPE TO THE UN.

3. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED TO USE ON IF ASKED BASIS ABOUT SCHWAB TRIP INTO LAOS:

Q: WERE YOU AWARE THAT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, MR. ROBERT SCHWAB, ENTERED LAOS FROM THAILAND WITH ELEMENTS OF THE LAO RESISTANCE AND STAYED WITH THE LAO RESISTANCE FOR SOME 10 DAYS.

A: MR. SCHWAB IS A PRIVATE U.S. CITIZEN. THE USG HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF MR. SCHWAB'S INTENTION TO ENTER LAOS OR OF ANY PART OF HIS TRIP UNTIL AFTER IT HAD BEEN MADE. WE WOULD HAVE STRONGLY ADVISED HIM AGAINST ENTERING LAOS ILLEGALLY HAD WE KNOWN OF HIS PLANS. SCHWAB DID TELL CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK OF HIS TRIP AFTER HE HAD RETURNED TO THAILAND. THESE OFFICIALS REITERATED THAT WHAT HE HAD DONE WAS DANGEROUS AND, FROM THE LAO POINT OF VIEW, ILLEGAL.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GIVING ANY SUPPORT TO THE RESISTANCE IN LAOS.

A: NO. WE ARE NOT SUPPORTING ANY INSURGENT MOVEMENT OR SIMILAR ACTIVITY AGAINST LAOS EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE LAO TERRITORY. END TEXT.

4. VIENTIANE IS AUTHORIZED TO USE ABOVE GUIDANCE ON IF ASKED BASIS WITH PRESS OR LAO OFFICIALS. VANCE

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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